

The life of the righteous as it should be lived.

(Quality: very good)

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Preacher: Dawson, Herbert (1890-1969)

[0 : 00] As the Lord shall be pleased to help me, I shall call your attention to a subject you will find in the Epistle to the Colossians, chapter 2, verses 6 and 7.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein, with thanksgiving.

The Epistle to the Colossians, chapter 2, verses 6 and 7.

As you ponder a subject like this in the announcement of it, and I hope grace will be given to say something helpful to you from it, but as you think on it and ponder it in your hearts, I do hope you find it to be attractive.

It is just the life that you would like to live if you are a sinner born again. To me, it is a word that is alluring.

[1 : 34] As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught.

And think on this word, abounding therein, with thanksgiving. So many of us, alas, in our profession of Jesus' name, live at a poor dying rate, so often.

But here, the Apostle Paul brings before us a picture of what is the life of the righteous, as it should be lived.

And I add this, grace is obtainable to live like it. The truth of the matter is, with so many of us, preachers and people alike, when prayer is a burden and task, no wonder I little receive.

O Lord, make me willing to ask, since thou art so ready to give. And now, I want, as the Lord, to help me to look at the subject from two or three viewpoints of it.

[3 : 05] And I would look, first of all, at the setting of it. And now, the Apostle Paul penned this epistle to the Colossians.

And as I read in the opening chapter, you can tell that the Apostle opened his heart in the fullness of it, in his desires that they might live unto God, live for God.

And he says, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ, which are at Colossae, Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard.

Mark the word in. Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which he have to all the saints.

[4 : 19] There is one aspect of the Apostle Paul, among many others, which I have much admired. And that is how large hearted he was.

And now, the Apostle Paul had never been to Colossae. And it was not the outcome of his labors, that there was this Church of Christ, established at Colossae.

As far as can be told, God used the labors of one whose name was Epaphras, as the Apostle Paul refers to it.

As ye also learned of Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ. Yes.

And now Epaphras had told the Apostle Paul, as he was a prisoner at Rome, about the Church at Colossae, and how God had wrought there.

[5 : 28] And the Apostle Paul found his heart well enough with love and good wishes and desires that he might do them some good.

And so he was inspired by the Spirit of God to pen this epistle to the Colossians. And he puts together some wonderful petitions.

Do ponder those words prayerfully, dear friends.

Think of them when you get home. And might they be an incentive to you in your petitions unto God. For it is just what you and I, as grace is given, would like to enter into.

Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

[6 : 46] Oh, you know as well as I do, that none of us can say much about increasing in knowledge of God. We seem as we journey on some of us to be made more and more aware that we have lived long, and alas, seem to have learned so little of God and godliness.

And we are made aware also of our solemn ignorance of God. And yet we have had abundance of opportunities to learn of God.

Much might be said regarding the setting of the subject. And there is another thought here.

You find that the Apostle Paul speaks like this. Do mark how this is worded.

For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.

[8 : 22] Dear friends, I thought as I pondered this subject a little, oh how good it would be if in the ministry nowadays, and those whom God has indeed ordained to preach the gospel of his grace, if they could know more of what this great conflict is for the churches.

Not only the church wherein you are interested, and where you belong, nor even just in churches which God has helped you in your labors to be the means of being built up and established.

But as you hear of other churches, wherein it is evident the Spirit of God is working in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am sure in my own judgment, that some things like these are at the root of where we are nowadays, in our denominational life, in being in such a low estate, those of us whom God has ordained to preach, have not always used the opportunities afforded us to seek the good of other churches as well as our own.

I am making no reflections on any of you, but you know if you weigh matters up before God, that there are sometimes opportunities when you can encourage poor sinners to hope in God, and seek to strengthen the things which remain, and that are ready to die as you read in the book of Revelation.

[10 : 26] It is good to find in your hearts a great concern to do it. You may say, how is it to be done?

One thing is very evident to me, and you know I am now old and grey-headed in the ministry, and I have some thoughts that I have reconsidered, as to when I was young in the ministry, and now I am old.

And one thing I am sure about, that a gracious revival in the churches will never come from the outside, or what is done from outside either, by man.

No. It must be done inside. And that can only be done by God.

Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high. And that should be our great concern, dear friends, regarding the churches nowadays.

[11 : 47] Not to waste our time in talking about this church, and that, and others that you hear about, as to their lowest state, and things they ought not to be in this one, and that.

But to know something of what the Apostle Paul says here. For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you.

That God would appear on your behalf, and keep you together in the things of God, and help you, as he says in the opening chapter, to be fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Dear friends, when all is said and done, it just narrows down to this, regarding things being better, in our own denominational life, and in the church of Christ, all together, in England as a nation.

The remedy lies before thee. Pray. This is the way. And walk ye in it. And now to look at our subject, as grace is given.

[13 : 06] As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. And now the Apostle Paul addresses these godly Colossians, and this is one thing which I much like.

The Apostle Paul received the report of Epaphras, concerning these godly Colossians, and he did not question it.

And so he addresses them, As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.

And now your interest, my interest, in the subject, hinges upon that viewpoint of it. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord.

It is a great thing to look back on in our lives, when grace was given to us, to make Jesus Christ welcome, in our souls' feelings.

[14 : 19] Some of you as yet have not felt as you would like to feel about it. And it might be you would not like to venture that you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, but I can tell you what you would venture.

We humbly for thy coming wait, seeking to know thee, as thou art, we bow as sinners at thy feet, and bid thee welcome to our heart.

And there is room in your breast, for Christ Jesus the Lord, to be received. And you have in your heart a welcome, for when he comes, and he will come, and how glad you will be.

Then you will know what that word means, unto you therefore which believe, he is precious. But I want to look just a little, as the Lord should help me, at what it is to receive Christ Jesus the Lord.

You see, there are two viewpoints of truth, which you must learn, as you journey on through life. And that is, it is very simple, but I can tell you this, it needs a great deal of grace, to reduce it to practice.

[15 : 52] It is, I say, very simple. And that is, that God in your life, would do all the giving, and you must learn, to do all the receiving.

And to receive it aright. Do think that over prayerfully. Do think that over prayerfully. And remember, through the preaching of the gospel, there is to be this consequence.

Poor sinners will either be helped, by grace divine, to receive Christ Jesus the Lord, whose gospel it is, or else they will evidence, how they were born, and say, we will not have this man to reign over us.

Depart from us, for we desire not the knowledge of thee, or thy ways. Very solemn it is, to think of that scripture, which dropped from the Saviour's lips, he that rejecteth me, and my words, hath one that judgeth him.

The word that I have spoken, it should judge him, at the last day. The word of God, the Holy Bible, what is recorded therein, will be the basis on which that sinner is judged, who says, we will not have this man to reign over us.

[17 : 38] And now, how good it is, if you and I, can look back along life's way, and see that grace was given to us, to receive Christ Jesus the Lord.

To own him as the Lord. And to desire that he should be the Lord of our life. And order it, and the government of it, to be upon his shoulder.

And that is what it means. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord. How is he received?

He is received, first of all, in our understandings. The Apostle Paul speaks to the godly Ephesians, that the eyes of your understanding, being enlightened.

And now, that means that, ere a sinner, can possess that enlightened understanding, there must be a miracle wrought in his breast.

[18 : 52] And it is wrought, a miracle of grace. A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.

I will take away the stony heart, out of your flesh. I will give you, a heart of flesh. And now, when that new heart is given, and that new spirit, there comes this new understanding.

And it enables a poor sinner, to think on Christ Jesus, the Lord, and so to think upon him, that he is able to declare, neither is there salvation in any other.

There is given unto heaven among men, none other name, whereby we can be saved. Oh, he can see, beyond words to describe, that Jesus, is the one thing needful.

I without him perish must. Gracious spirit, make me heedful. Help me in his name to trust, and with pleasure, in him as my portion, boast.

[20 : 17] And so, Christ Jesus, the Lord, is received, in the enlightened understanding, that dwells in the new heart given.

And then, Christ Jesus, the Lord, is received also, in our soul's esteem.

As you think upon him, the life he lived, and the death he died, and how he rose from the dead on that Easter morn long ago, and ascended up on high, and that he is in heaven, on behalf of poor sinners, to do them good.

As you ponder these things, as you ponder these things in your heart, you will find your soul's esteem, will flow forth, and you will desire, Lord Jesus, make thyself to me, a living, bright reality.

reality. Yes. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus, the Lord, he is received in our affections.

[21 : 33] Tis Christ, the bright and morning star, draws my affections from afar. And then, I can only give you hints about it, because the subject is unfathomable, in its depths, and we shall only draw a bucket full out of it, as grace is given, to do as much as that.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus, the Lord. And now, Christ Jesus, is received as the Lord. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

The Word of God declares that. And it is a wonderful mercy, when a poor sinner finds in his heart, living faith to believe in him, as to who he is, Christ Jesus, the Lord.

And without faith, it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of all them, that diligently seek him.

He is received in his glorious person, as the Lord. Verily man, verily God. This was the crux of the matter, when Jesus Christ was on earth.

[23 : 10] He came unto his own, and his own received him not. He went about, in the land of promise, and every step he took, he was seeking to do good, and to fulfill the law, under which he was, born as verily man.

But the great majority, did not receive him. And they said, is not this the carpenter? Is not this the son of Joseph?

His father and mother we know. Eh, but there were some, ordained of God, poor sinners, not a few, who did receive him.

And as they were brought before him, with their incurable cases, they were given living faith, to receive him, for who he was, Christ Jesus, the Lord.

You find many an instance, in the Gospels, where they addressed, Jesus Christ, as Lord.

[24 : 25] And they had received him, in their hearts, as such a person, Christ Jesus, the Lord.

As ye have therefore received, Christ Jesus, the Lord. And now there is this viewpoint too.

When you go to Bethlehem, and see the great thing, that came to pass there, did you ever go? It would do you good to go, as faith is given, and view as it were, the manger cradle, sheltered in the stable, and see the little babe, lying therein, as the word of God, draws the word picture for you.

And to believe, when you see that little babe, a holy babe, his shoulders held up, heaven and earth, when Mary, held up him.

To see in that little babe, born a babe, by birth mysterious, Christ Jesus, the Lord, come down, into this world, to take upon him, our nature, yet without sin, in union with his divine nature, as the eternal son of God, that he might do, love's redeeming work.

[26 : 00] Yes, a body, has thou, prepared me. As ye have therefore received, Christ Jesus, the Lord, so you will receive him, in all that he was, enabled to do, as verily man, as the word of God, sets it forth, and glad you will be, to receive it, because you will, will be given, the understanding, that it was done, on your behalf, and that vast host, for whom, he came down, into this world, to seek, and to save.

Much might be said, along that line of thought, as ye have therefore, received, Christ Jesus, the Lord.

And now it means too, you will receive, Christ Jesus, the Lord, as he is revealed, in the word of his grace. The scriptures, and the Lord, bear one tremendous name, the written, and the incarnate word, in all things, are the same.

In the days, in which you and I, are living, the word of God, is being assailed, as never before. And you find, that some of the, so called religious leaders, are cutting the word of God, to pieces, and declaring, that some of the, foundation truths, of our most holy faith, are only myths, and fables.

Oh, but you, a sinner born again, you will receive, Christ Jesus, the Lord, and you will receive, the word of his grace, and you will indeed believe, all scripture is given, by inspiration, of God.

[28 : 03] You recognize, its holy, divine, authority, and you desire, thy word, is a lamp, unto my feet, a light, unto, my path.

And that means, as you receive, the word of God, for what it is, the word of God, you will, receive, its doctrine.

Jesus said, my doctrine, is not mine, but, his that sent me. glory, and remember, that which causes, such enmity, against the word of God, and even by these, so called, modernist preachers, is the sovereignty, of God, that the word of God, displays, from cover, to cover, wherein, God declares, I will be gracious, to whom I, will be gracious, I will have mercy, upon whom I, will have mercy, but you, if you were taught, of God, you will receive, the doctrine, the word of God, proclaims.

Other foundation, can no man lay, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. And it just comes, to this dear friends, as you learn, the doctrine, set forth, in the word of God, salvation, is of the Lord.

And of the Lord, alone, by grace, are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man, should boast.

[29 : 59] And you will feel, like this, as you learn, doctrine, as the word of God, reveals it, and the spirit of God, makes it known, in your soul's experience.

I must have Christ, as all in all, or sink in ruin, guilt, and thrall. None but Jesus, can do helpless, in us good.

as ye have therefore received, Christ Jesus the Lord. And now, that means you will receive, not only its doctrine, you will receive its promises, glad you will be, to get a promise, that you believe, comes from God, into your soul's experience, and you will say of it, remember the word, unto thy servant, upon which, thou hast caused me, to hope, another viewpoint, is this, you will receive, the precepts of it.

And now, that is a real, crucial test, of your religion, and mine. What is your attitude, to the precepts, in the word of God?

Promises, contain that, which God declares, he will do for you, and give you. And you receive the same. But when it comes to precepts, that is something, God requires of you, to do, for his name's sake, his honour, his glory.

[31 : 37] And the psalmist said, I esteem thy precepts, in all things to be right, and I hate every false way. Dear friends, it is a great thing, to find in your hearts, that you receive, the precepts, of the word of God, and to say, as David did, let the words of my mouth, and the meditation, of my heart, be acceptable, in thy sight.

O Lord, my strength, and my, Redeemer. Yes, make me to walk, in thy commands, for tis a delightful road, nor let my head, or heart, or hands, offend against my God.

You will then receive, the word of God, and desire to live your life, in accordance with, its blessed teaching, live inside, the covers of it, as it were.

much might be said, under that heading, as ye have therefore, received Christ, Jesus the Lord, and it means this, you will receive, the gospel, of the grace of God.

there is no other gospel, but the gospel, of the grace of God, and that you will, receive, and say thank you, to God, for it, because it tells, of sovereign grace, or sin abounding, where sin, did abound, grace, shall much, more abound, the word of God declares, and that is the essence, of the gospel.

[33 : 29] And now the apostle Paul, speaks of the godly, Thessalonians, ye did receive, the love of the truth. Have you received it? You listen to it, a goodly number of you, week in, week out, and it is good, to listen to it, but do you love it?

And do you love it, when it comes, to search you, and try you, and cause you, to ponder in your heart, as to what you are, and where you are, not only when it confirms you, and comforts you, but to receive it, when it is set before you, what you ought to be, as you live your life, in accordance with it, and you know, deep down in your heart, how much you fail, in doing it, then to receive, the picture of it, and to desire, more grace, to be more in accordance, with what you ought to be, yes, it is a great thing, to receive the gospel, of the grace of God, to have an ear, attuned, to hear what God, the Lord, will say, in the proclamation, of it, blessed is the people, that know the joyful sound, they shall walk,

O Lord, in the light, of thy countenance, and now, I must hasten on, as you have therefore, received Christ Jesus, the Lord, and now, you will not only receive, the gospel, you will receive, all those who preach it, with divine authority, to do so, and how will you know, that they have got, divine authority, to do so, you will know it like this, as you listen to them, preaching it, whoever they are, wherever they may be, laboring, in word and doctrine, upon Zion's walls, knowing, brethren, beloved, your election of God, for our gospel, came not unto you, in word only, but also in power, and now, when you feel that power, through any man, preaching the gospel, there is indeed, evidence, in that fact, that he has, divine authority, to be, where he is, preaching it, and you will receive him, it may be, not all that you listen to, preaching the gospel, will be of, what we call, our church order, we do wish, they all were, but, it is not so, at the present time, in the history, of the church of Christ, but look you, it was so, in apostolic times, what does the apostle Paul say, in our context, for though, though I be absent, in the flesh, yet am I, with you in the spirit, joy in and behold, in your order, and the steadfastness, of your faith, in Christ, there is not, any church of Christ, referred to, in the new testament, but what, it was made up, of believers, baptized, on a profession, of their faith, which they had made, before the church of Christ, and that was then, the order, and when the spirit, of God returns, as we humbly hope, he will do, in due time, you will see, much more of that, due order, in the church of Christ, than you do, nowadays, but, the great thing, is this, if you receive,

Christ Jesus the Lord, aright, then you will want, to do what, Paul says, to the church, at Ephesus, grace be, with all them, that love our, Lord Jesus Christ, in sincerity, the margin, is, and without corruption, as you have, therefore, received, Christ Jesus the Lord, you receive, those, whom he ordains, to preach it, and you are glad, to hear them preach it, and you say, thank you to God, for them being sent forth, to preach it, and sometimes, it strengthens your faith, to ask him, to send yet more, pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth, laborers, into his harvest, harvest, I can tell you this, as one in life's evening time, how glad I am, as I learn, and discern, of, young men, being raised up, to preach the gospel, as we believe, ordained of God, to go forth, and do it, and others, in life's afternoon, who have been raised up, to preach it, who are following on, and that they will, still be laboring, on Zion's walls, when some of us, will have reached, the end of life's journey, and be known, on earth, no more, yet the gospel, will still be preached, and God will, never be at a loss, for men, to preach it, and at any time, anywhere, as you hear, of a man, raised up, to preach it, it is a token, for good, that God designs, yet mercy, to England, as a nation, and that the church, of Christ, in the midst of it, shall still be built up, and maintained, yes, as you have, therefore, received,

Christ, Jesus, the Lord, and do remember this, I make another comment, there, you remember, when the Savior, was on earth, that James, and John, they found a man, who was preaching, the gospel, and doing good, and casting out, devils, in the name of Jesus, and they forbade him, and they came, and told Jesus, what they had done, and it might be, they quite thought, they would be commended, for it, but the dear Savior, rebuked them, and he said, forbid him not, he that is not against us, is for us, what did John, and James say, he followeth not, with us, eh, but you and I, have got to learn, this lesson, what is that to thee, follow thou me, as ye have therefore, received, Christ Jesus the Lord, so, what ye in him, exhibit his spirit, much might be said, along that line of thought, you will receive to, all those who do receive,

[41 : 02] Christ Jesus the Lord, glad you will be, to meet with some, who give evidence, that they, have received, Christ Jesus the Lord, and that will cause you, to feel like, Barnabas, who when he came to Antioch, and saw the grace of God, he was glad, but I will soon, come to the amen, as ye have therefore, received, Christ Jesus the Lord, and now, here is another, crucial test, if you have received, Christ Jesus the Lord, you will receive, your cross, whatever its nature, as that which, Christ Jesus the Lord, has ordained for you, and seek to carry it, for his sake, as well, as your own, there is a word, in the epistle, to the Philippians, which is, very, striking, and, it will be well, if you and I, can ponder it, for unto you, it is given, in the behalf, of Christ, not only, to believe on him, but also, to suffer, for his sake, you suffer, you think, for your own sake, and so you do, and you know, that, the sufferings,

God has allotted you, compared with, what our sins deserve, how easy, are our pains, but there is, another viewpoint, of your sufferings, it is enough, for the disciple, that he be as his Lord, do remember that, he that taketh not up his cross, and followeth after me, cannot, be my disciple, a very solemn standard, as ye have therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord, oh receive whatever cross, he ordains, and say, Lord, do help me to bear it, to thy honour, and glory, and my own soul's, peace, and profit, that I may be helped, to say, it is good for me, that I have been afflicted, that I might learn, thy, statutes, statutes, yes, and I might add this, if you have received,

Christ Jesus the Lord, you will also receive, how he orders your life, he will, make you to understand, one scripture, the steps of a good man, are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in his way, and he will teach you, this beautiful truth, he knows, he loves, and he cares, and nothing, this truth, can dim, he gives the very best, to those, who leave the choice, to him, and you look back, over life's journey, and see, how the cloud, has moved, on your behalf, so that you are found, where you are, and who you are, and what you are, and you can see, and he led them forth, by the right way, that they might go, to a city, of habitation, as he have therefore, received,

Christ Jesus, the Lord, look at this little word, so, oh the emphasis, there is, upon it, so, walk ye in him, yes, and that means, to walk in him, dependently, the just shall live, by faith, casting all your care, upon him, for he careth, for you, dear friends, it is a good life, to live, as grace is given, to do it, trust in him, at all times, and how, ye people, pour out your hearts, before him, God is a, refuge, for us, so, walk ye in him, dependently, walk ye in him, meekly, meekly, what did Jesus say, learn of me, for I am meek, and lowly of heart, and you know, sometimes in your walk,

I'm not fitting any caps on, sometimes in your walk, you and I have not been, always, meek, no, we have not been, well behaved, we have been, fretful, murmuring, irritable, rebellious, and ready to, complain, against God, all these things, are against me, but, in his time, he has given us, a right, frame of mind, and how sweet it is, blessed, are the meek, and blessed it is, when you can feel it, in your own soul's experience, a gracious, humble, meekness, which brings with it, submission, to the will of God, in his dealings, with you, and you can say, it is the Lord, and let him do, what seemeth him good, and what, is good in his eyes, is good in, your eyes, too, yes, so, walk ye in him, meekly, and I do not need, to tell you, for you know it already, or you should do, walk ye in him, soberly, you cannot walk, in Christ Jesus, the Lord, otherwise, than soberly, watch, watch, and be sober, ye children, of God, your wonderful lover, has bought you, with blood, and that knowledge, should cause you, to be concerned, to walk, soberly, in your everyday life, not to let, what you are, by nature, get the upper hand, and do, mischief, in your own soul's, experience, and in other people's, too, so, walk ye, in him, and then it means, loyalty, oh, it means, that you stand, fast, in the faith, and you desire, to show, as every opportunity, is afforded you, to answer that question, who is on the Lord's side, and you desire, to make it plain, that you are, and some of you, might think, a little deeper down, about it, and make it known, before the church, of Christ, too, and gladden, the hearts, of they, that belong, to it, in our church, fellowship, so, walk ye, in him,

[48 : 35] Jesus, says, to each believer, be baptized, be baptized, in my name, he himself, in Jordan's river, was immersed, beneath, the stream, mark the little word, so, suffer it, to be so now, for thus, it becometh us, to fulfill, all righteousness, so, walk ye, in him, loyally, let, it be known, in your home life, Christ, is the head, of this house, and, before the world, as you labor, therein, to earn the bread, which perisheth, so, walk ye, in him, whosoever, shall be ashamed, of me, and of my words, of him, shall the son of man, be ashamed, when he shall come, with all the holy angels, yes, a very solemn, consideration, there is just one other thought, as I come to the amen, so, walk ye, in him, practically, you remember,

John Bunyan says, in his quaint way, the principal part, of religion, is the, practic, part, to hoard up, the sacred word, and feed thereon, and grow, go on, to seek, to know the Lord, and practice, what you know, yes, oh, that you, and I, might have more grace, for we sorely, need it, the grace, of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that we, might live, more in accordance, with this line, of things, I have brought, before you, as you have, therefore, received, Christ, Jesus, the Lord, so, walk, ye, in him, can two walk together, except they be agreed, think of what it is, in your everyday life, as grace is given, to have the, wondrous privilege, and the favor, beyond words, to describe, to walk with God, and that is, what it, really means, so, walk, ye, in him,

God, rule in your life, and you, desiring, to be subject, to him, in your everyday life, in your duties, your difficulties, and to, so live, that, you may serve, your day, and generation, according, to the will of God, and to do it, on this basis, freely, ye have received, freely, give, Amen.